

FARM EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

The farm equipment program is concerned with the instructional, promotional and technical-mechanical phases of the use of electrical farm equipment, including electrically-powered equipment and equipment adaptable to electric drive or power. The scope of the program develops from the problems and needs of the farmer in using electricity in conjunction with better farm management practices, primarily outside the farm dwelling.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To establish electricity as a major source of economic farm power.
- B. To replace hand labor with electric power wherever practical.
- C. To increase farm income through the application of electric power by:
 - 1. Reducing the cost of production.
 - 2. Improving the quality of farm products.
 - 3. Preserving perishable farm products.
 - 4. Processing of raw farm products.
 - 5. Handling of farm products.
- D. To demonstrate the value of income producing electrical equipment which will justify investments and induce interest in additional equipment.
- E. To increase the average power use as an aid in assuring the successful operation of the cooperative, and to make feasible the electrification of remaining unserved areas.

III. EXECUTION OF FARM EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

It shall be the responsibility of the board of directors and the manager to recognize and assume the responsibility for providing the means for distributing the information which the members need to make the best and most beneficial uses of electricity for themselves and the cooperative. The Committee recommends that the cooperative be authorized by REA to employ and assign employees for the purpose of carrying out the power use programs on the individual system.

This program is developed with the above statements in mind and it becomes the responsibility of the Applications and Loans Division to guide and assist borrowers in administering this program in such manner as to make the best use of personnel supplied by the cooperative, to aid in their training, and to assist the cooperatives in the selection of new personnel when the opportunity presents itself.

- A. Responsibilities of the Office of the Chief, A & L Division
 - 1. To supply the regional office with technical information regarding new developments and also operational data concerning electrical farm equipment.
 - 2. To keep in contact with electrical manufacturers and research groups regarding new developments in farm equipment.
 - 3. To assist the regional office in conducting training programs for the field.

4. To prepare information on electrical farm applications which will be applicable for guidance of cooperative personnel as well as REA field personnel in carrying out the program.
5. To keep in contact with educational agencies and groups in order to acquaint them with the farm equipment program and to solicit their cooperation in presenting the information.

B. Responsibilities of the A & L Regional Office

1. To direct the field activities of the farm equipment program within the region, and to coordinate the farm equipment program with other activities in the region.
2. To transmit information from the Office of the Chief to field personnel, and vice versa.
3. To develop and maintain adequate records concerning progress in the farm equipment program.
4. To establish (with the assistance of specialists) periodic training schools for field personnel.
5. To keep in contact with educational agencies and groups in order to acquaint them with the farm equipment program and to solicit their cooperation in presenting the information.

C. Responsibilities of the REA Field Representative

1. To present the need for this program to each board of directors and their manager, to obtain their full recognition of their responsibility in conducting such a program. Wherever this program is dependent upon consumer credit, the Section 5 Loan program should be discussed fully with the Board of Directors.
2. To assist the cooperative in locating and employing qualified personnel who are able to carry out the farm equipment program.
3. To establish training programs for cooperative employees in electrical farm equipment which will acquaint them with the fundamental uses of electricity in agriculture.
4. To work with state and local educational agencies and groups and solicit their collaboration with the farm equipment program.
5. To assist and advise the employee in further development in adapting the fundamental uses of electrical equipment in his particular area.
6. To assist cooperative employees assigned to power use programs in developing rural distribution and service of electrical farm equipment.
7. To gather information and collect new ideas from systems and elsewhere regarding the use of electrical equipment which has been found to be useful. It shall be his duty to pass such information on to the other systems after it has been approved by REA.
8. To inform the regional office of any meetings of rural nature which afford an opportunity to promote electrical farm equipment.

9. In addition to his regular field reports, he will submit special reports to the regional office concerning the farm equipment program.

D. Suggested Responsibilities and Activities of Cooperative Employees in Charge of Farm Equipment Program:

1. To make full use of local and state specialists engaged in establishing better farm practices and in using such assistance in extending the use of electricity on the farm.
2. To obtain the necessary fundamental technical information in both electricity and agriculture and to adapt that information into an application's approach acceptable to the area.
3. To develop an annual program of timely and seasonal activities that will place information before the members in order that they may incorporate recommended uses into their farm operation. Project newsletters, local newspapers, broadcasting stations and exhibits at annual meetings, may be used as mediums of transmitting such information.
4. To pass on locally-developed ideas in the use of electricity and homemade equipment to REA for consideration.
5. To employ local farm demonstrations and farm visit exchanges to show approved desirable applications and results obtained from the use of electric power.
6. To develop sales and service in electrical farm equipment.
7. To make special studies of income producing applications of electricity and to pass on such information to members of the cooperative and to REA.
8. To submit progress reports to the manager and the board of directors concerning the farm equipment program.

1. To determine the extent of the problem and its causes.

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